

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5638

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS UR BTRA

SUBJECT: MULTIPLE VISAS FOR BUSINESSMEN

REF: A) MOSCOW 18802, PARA 2; B) MOSCOW 18137; C) MOSCOW 3729

OF APRIL 4, 1973, AND PREVIOUS; D) STATE 53476 OF MARCH
23, 1973; E) STATE 264816, PARA 5.

1. REF A MENTIONED REPORTED MFT ALLUSION TO ALLEGED MARCH 13, 1974 LETTER FROM EMBASSY INDICATING US AGREED WITH SOVIET PRACTICE IN GRANTING MULTIPLE ENTRY-EXIT VISAS TO ONLY HEADS OF US BUSINESS OFFICES HERE. WE BELIEVE ALLUSION MAY BE TO EMBASSY'S NOTE 242 OF MARCH 26, 1973 RPT 1973, WHICH INDICATED ACCEPTANCE OF SOVIET WILLINGNESS AS INDICATED IN MFA NOTE KU 333 OF MARCH 16, 1973 TO ISSUE SUCH VISAS RECIPROCALLY TO HEADS OF OFFICES.

2. AS INDICATED REF C AND PREVIOUS, IN EARLY 1973 EMBASSY HAD PROPOSED RECIPROCAL ISSUANCE OF MULTIPLE VISAS TO ALL RESIDENT BUSINESSMEN. MFA RESPONDED WITH COUNTERPROPOSAL THAT SUCH VISAS BE ISSUED TO HEADS OF OFFICES. AS CLEARLY STATED REF D, US ACCEPTED SOVIET PROPOSAL IN INTEREST OF MAKING SOME IMMEDIATE PROGRESS BUT WOULD HAVE PREFERRED ORIGINAL BROADER US PROPOSAL.

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3. MFT ALLUSION REPORTED REF A MAY REFLECT CURRENT MISUNDER-

STANDING OF SOME SOVIET OFFICIALS ABOUT US POSITION WHEN EXISTING
LIMITED RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED.

4. WE ALSO NOTE THAT RECENT CABLE FROM DEPARTMENT (REF E)
INCLUDES REFERENCE TO MULTIPLE VISA QUESTION IN WHICH
LANGUAGE SUGGESTS THAT, IN DEPARTMENT'S CURRENT VIEW, RECIPROCAL
ISSUANCE OF SUCH VISAS TO ALL BUSINESSMEN AT THIS TIME WOULD
BENEFIT SOVIET SIDE MORE THAN US SIDE BECAUSE MORE SOVIETS THAN
AMERICANS WOULD IMMEDIATELY BENEFIT. REF E SUGGESTS DEPARTMENT
BELIEVES WE CAN EXPECT SOVIETS TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN PUSHING
FOR RECIPROCAL LIBERALIZATION.

T. EMBASSY'S VIEW IS THAT SITUATION REF D STILL PREVAILS -
SUCH RECIPROCAL LIBERALIZATION WOULD BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE,
PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF SOVIET EXIT VISA REQUIREMENT.
EMBASSY BELIEVES US SHOULD PUSH FOR SUCH LIBERALIZATION.
PER REF B, EMBASSY REQUESTS AUTHORIZATION TO RESTATE FORMALLY
TO MFA AND MFT OFFER OF RECIPROCAL ISSUANCE OF MULTIPLE-
ENTRY US VISAS TO SOVIET COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATION
EMPLOYEES RESIDENT IN US IN RETURN FOR MULTIPLE ENTRY-EXIT
VISAS FOR ALL US BUSINESSMEN RESIDENT USSR
STOESSEL

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